

STUDENT-SPY LINK PROBED

Katzenbach Begins Inquiry
Ordered By Johnson

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[Washington Bureau of The Sun]

Washington, Feb. 17—A State Department spokesman asserted under questioning this afternoon that Nicholas Katzenbach, acting chief of the department, has begun the consultations with John Gardner, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, and Richard Helms, CIA director, that were projected in his announcement Wednesday of President Johnson's order for a "careful review" of Government influence in... "the international activities of American educational organizations."

"All by way of getting on top of the facts" and both to "clarify the present situation" and define "a future course of action," Katzenbach has had "informal discussions" with Gardner and Helms since Wednesday, Robert J. McCloskey, the department's chief press officer, told questioners.

Plans Not Upset

The State Department also said that plans to "create a forum for sharing views between educators and United States diplomats" have not been upset by developments stemming from a disclosure that the Central Intelligence Agency had been subsidizing overseas activities of the National Student Association.

Under these plans, disclosed a week ago, the State Department is sending a six-man team to two California campuses next week to take part in "workshop sessions" on eight different topics with educators from all over the State.

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Katzenbach's Review

On the subject of Katzenbach's meeting with Helms and Gardner, the press secretary said they will be meeting regularly. When asked if the White House had "set a period of time" for completion of the "careful review," he answered:

"No. This survey will take as long as is necessary."

Helms, meanwhile, kept a date to meet with senior members of the House Armed Services Committee. The date had been made prior to Tuesday's disclosure of C.I.A. involvement in American student affairs overseas.

After the close-door session, Representative Rivers (D., S.C.), the committee's chairman, and Representative Bates (R., Mass.), its top-ranking minority member, joined in a statement that said:

"The C.I.A. is to be commended for its cooperation. If they had not acted as they did, they would have been derelict in their statutory obligations."

Known To Committee

Rivers said the C.I.A.-student relationship, terminated as of last January 1, had been known for several years to members of his committee's subcommittee on C.I.A. operations.

The statement Bates joined him in issuing said C.I.A. funds were supplied the student group so that it might resist Communist attempts to win control of international student organizations.

"Espionage was not involved, the survival of freedom was," they asserted.